**Reviewing Drought Allocation Norms**

5115. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the norms of allocation for drought hit States; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The items and norms of expenditure for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund for natural calamities including drought for the period 2000-05 have been revised recently by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Drought Mitigation Efforts**

5116. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the drought has pulled down foodgrains output by 13 per cent as reported in the media, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by Government to face drought during the year;

(d) whether efforts made by Government last year borne fruit;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the latest estimates, against a total foodgrains production of 111.57 million MTs in Kharif, 2001, the figure for Kharif, 2002 is 89.45 million MTs. This decline is attributable to drought.

(c) to (f) The initiatives taken by the Government of India to assist the States affected by drought during 2002-03 include;

(i) Constitution of the Task Force on Drought Management to lay down policies and issue guidelines to deal with drought situation;

(ii) Release of assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) amounting to Rs. 2101.90 crores (after adjustment of Calamity Relief Fund;

(iii) Allocation of food-grains, free of cost, under the Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) Scheme for relief employment;